

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office action dated November 25, 2005, wherein the examiner made final a restriction of non-elected claims 29-38; objected to the figures; rejected claims 1-9, 12, 15-18, 20-21, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) due to U.S. patent number 6,661,605, issued to Pust et al.; and objected to claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, 22 and 23. The claims objected to are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, as confirmed in teleconference on February 13, 2006 between the examiner and the undersigned counsel for the applicants. The applicants are appreciative of the indicated allowability of claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, 22 and 23.

The applicants herein amend claims 1-28, cancel claims 29-38, and add new independent claims 39 and 40 with no fee, in place of the other canceled independent claims. The amendments to claims 10, 11, 13, 14, 19, 22 and 23 are not believed material to the previously indicated allowability of these claims. The applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-28 and 39-40 are in condition for allowance at this time, and request that the examiner find likewise in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

OBJECTION TO FIGURES RESOLVED

The examiner objected to the figures. Three replacement sheets comprising replacement figures for FIGS. 8, 9 and 10 are provided herein, and the specification has been amended as indicated above. The applicants believe these replacement figures and amendments to the specification resolve the objection to the figures. The applicants request that the examiner replace the previous FIGS. 8-10 with the enclosed replacement figures and accordingly withdraw the objection to the figures.

NEW CLAIMS 39 AND 40 ARE ALLOWABLE

Claim 39 includes a hydrodynamic surface comprising a responsive aeroelastic deposit having a third coefficient of expansion responsive to the stimulus that is greater than the second coefficient of expansion, among other elements. This feature is not disclosed in Pust, which explicitly teaches “transducer 90 expanding the greatest amount” (Column 8, lines 9-10). Claim 40 includes subject matter that the examiner has already indicated to be allowable in claim 10; for example, wherein the responsive aeroelastic deposit comprises a

convergent channel. For at least these illustrative reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 39 and 40 are allowable.

Claims 2-4, 12, 15-18, and 20 as amended are dependent on claim 39; and claims 5-9, 21, and 24-27 as amended are dependent on claim 40. Due at least to the allowability of claims 39 and 40, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-9, 12, 15-18, 20-21, and 24-28 are also allowable.

PUST DOES NOT ANTICIPATE CLAIM 1

Claims 1-9, 12, 15-18, 20-21, and 24-28 were rejected under §102 due to Pust. Claims 2-4, 12, 15-18, and 20 as amended are dependent on claim 39, while claims 5-9, 21, and 25-27 as amended are dependent on claim 40; these claims are believed to be allowable at least due to the allowability of claims 39 and 40.

The applicants respectfully submit that Pust does not anticipate claim 1, for at least the illustrative reason that Pust does not disclose a hydrodynamic surface comprising at least a portion of a bearing surface and a responsive aeroelastic deposit, which is required by claim 1. The terminology of a hydrodynamic surface and a responsive aeroelastic deposit is extensively and particularly used in the claim language and the specification of the present application to describe inventive new features. Although the specification is not imported into the claims, the claim language is interpreted in light of the specification. Pust does not mention aerodynamic or hydrodynamic effects, responsive deposits, or aeroelastic features. Furthermore, the cited subject matter of Pust concerns features on a trailing edge, rather than on a bearing surface. The subject matter of Pust therefore does not disclose a hydrodynamic surface comprising at least a portion of a bearing surface and a responsive aeroelastic deposit. Claim 1 requires a hydrodynamic surface comprising at least a portion of a bearing surface and a responsive aeroelastic deposit, and is therefore not taught or suggested by Pust.

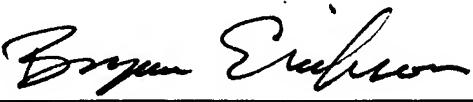
CLAIMS 1-28 AND 39-40 ARE BELIEVED ALLOWABLE

The applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-28 and 39-40 have been demonstrated to be allowable. The applicants accordingly respectfully request that the examiner withdraw the corresponding rejections and allow claims 1-28 and 39-40.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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